

Appl. No. 10/690,147
Amendment dated January 3, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated December 22, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Complete Listing of All Claims and Their Status

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

5 (currently amended): [The control lever assembly as recited in claim 4, in which] A hand-operated jointed control lever assembly comprising:

- (a) a lever body mounted for pivoting movement about an axis from a released position to an actuated position; said lever body having a rearward first fulcrum surface and a rearwardly-extending lip proximate said first fulcrum surface;
- (b) a lever arm having a forward edge portion and a second fulcrum surface proximate said forward edge portion. said first fulcrum surface and said second fulcrum surface being adapted for mating engagement without a pivot axle joining said lever arm to said lever body when said forward edge portion is engaged under said lip; and
- (c) tensioning means for applying a contraction force between said first fulcrum surface and said second fulcrum surface that biases said first and second fulcrum surfaces into mating engagement; said tensioning means comprising:
 - i. a tensioning cable passing through said first and said second fulcrum surfaces, said tensioning cable having a first end and a second end, said first end being secured to said lever arm; and
 - ii. [said tensioning spring is] a compression coil spring interposed between said second end of said tensioning cable and said lever body, said compression coil spring being disposed within a cavity formed within said lever body [, and] with said tensioning cable [passes] passing axially through said coil spring.

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1 Claim 6 (canceled).

1 7 (currently amended): [The control lever assembly as recited in claim 6, in which] A
2 hand-operated jointed control lever assembly, said assembly comprising:

- 3 (a) a lever body mounted for pivoting movement about an axis from a released
4 position to an actuated position; said lever body having a rearward first fulcrum
5 surface and a rearwardly-extending lip proximate said first fulcrum surface;
6 (b) a lever arm having a forward edge portion and a second fulcrum surface
7 proximate said forward edge portion, said first fulcrum surface and said second
8 fulcrum surface being adapted for mating engagement without a pivot axle
9 joining said lever arm to said lever body when said forward edge portion is
10 engaged under said lip; said first and second fulcrum surfaces being
11 respectively cylindrically concave and convex;
12 (c) a tensioning cable passing through said first and said second fulcrum surfaces,
13 said tensioning cable having a first end and a second end, said first end being
14 secured to said lever arm; and
15 (d) [said tensioning spring is] a compression coil spring interposed between said
16 second end of said tensioning cable and said lever body, said compression coil
17 spring being disposed within a cavity formed within said lever body [, and] with
18 said tensioning cable [passes] passing axially through said coil spring.